the chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, former Chief Justice of Kerala and Karnataka High Courts, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Secretarial assistance to retired Supreme Court Judges

108. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to give secretarial assistance to retired Supreme Court Judges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, even when Government are facing financial crunch; and

(c) whether it would not induce to be followed by the High Court Judges and afterwards by the bureaucrats at top level?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government has *vide* Notification dated 25.5.2001 amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959 allowing the retired Chief Justices of India during their life time to a payment of rupees ten thousand per month for defraying the services of a stenographer on contract basis.

(b) and (c) The Chief Justice of India is the head of the Judiciary, one of the three wings of the Republic of India. Former Presidents of India and former Prime Ministers are also availing the benefits of secretarial staff. On the same analogy, secretarial assistance has been extended to the retired Chief justices of India. No proposal is under consideration of the Government to extend similar benefits to the retired Judges of the High Courts and others.